

space CITY!

VOLUME II, ISSUE NO. 19/APRIL 6, 1971/HOUSTON, TEXAS/(713) 526-6257

20¢

25¢ OUT OF
TOWN

Milby Park



by Dennis Fitzgerald

Milby Park is normally a 40-odd acre tract of peaceful greenery, snuggled bizarrely among freeways, factories and a bayou so efficiently polluted that it seems more a natural disaster than an act of sabotage.

On Sunday, March 28, however, Milby Park was lifted out of its dismal setting and transported abruptly into the dinnertime conversations of "concerned Houstonians" everywhere. The occasion was a combination dope festival and police rampage. A good time was had by almost nobody.

Since the summer of 1969, Milby has been the scene of free Sunday afternoon rock concerts, often drawing thousands of people. As in almost any such gathering of young people today, marijuana use has been fairly open and widespread. But in the two year history of the concerts, the only previous incident, if it can be called that, occurred when one enthusiastic rock fan took off his clothes. Milby just hadn't had any trouble — until Houston Police decided to go looking for it.

Mary, age 18: "I'm willing to

sacrifice my everyday life to get something changed. We owe all this to the head of the police department, ol' Herman Short. He's running this town like a Gestapo."

Police Capt. J.B. Renois: "It goes without saying that there was utter disregard of any authority of police officers attempting to control this mob in flagrant abuse of narcotics laws."

Jack Ford, KTRH radio news editor: "I was watching what appeared to be two of the prisoners who were

brought in from the Milby Park incident . . . A man identified previously as only Sergeant stepped in front of the short prisoner. I could hear an exchange of words, then I saw the man identified as Sergeant slap the short man. Immediately thereafter, I saw a leg raised and a foot push against the tall prisoner, however, the tall prisoner blocked the foot and when it came down I saw the man to whom it belonged. From previous contact with this man I ascertained that he was an officer. . . . the man identified

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We got the money!



a letter from the collective

Hello again . . .

Well, we're back. And we've sure missed you. Hope you've missed us.

This is the first issue of Space City!, Houston's alternative newspaper, since Feb. 14 of this year. That might not seem like a long time, but you better believe it's been ages.

With our last issue we announced to our readers that we were being forced to suspend publication indefinitely. We honestly didn't know when we'd be back in print. Our main hassle was money. Due to a number of factors that all came together at once, the bottom fell out of our money bucket.

But it wasn't just the bread. There were other things. Like we were frustrated. We were working hard and putting out what we figured was a pretty good paper. But, just the same, we thought we could be doing a whole lot more. It was like we were at some kind of deadend: we'd gone about as far as we could, and yet we weren't sure we were getting where we wanted to go. *We wanted to do something qualitatively different.*

So, for those two reasons — financial and existential — we quit printing for a while. And once we didn't have all the frantic busy work to occupy our every waking moment, we had a little time to take a good look at ourselves. And we figured out some things. A master plan. A way to get out of our rut. That plan involved a lot of things, many of which we can better communicate by showing you in these and future pages than through trying to rap it all out in words.

But we can give you some hints. One: NEWS. Lots more news. Local news. Raking the hometown muck. Filling the cavernous void left by Houston's dailies. That's what we really wanted to do. Less bullshit. Less rhetoric. Less long rambling analytic this and that. More hard information.

To do that we needed, Two: REORGANIZATION. In the past, everybody on the full-time staff equally shared responsibility for everything. That meant: everybody equally shared in *freaking out collectively* about everything. This meant that nobody could get deeply enough into anything. You couldn't really dig in, follow through.

The answer we found was specialization. Novel idea? People on the staff picked areas in which we wanted to function and swore on a stack of Rogets Thesaurus that we would stick to those areas and stop spreading ourselves so thin. Areas like local news reporting, distribution, production, advertising, photography . . . So we worked that all out.

And then came, Three: WEEKLY PUBLICATION. We decided to double our burden, double our fun, by doubling the frequency of our publication. We decided to start publishing *every week*. For several reasons. First, we could be more of a *newspaper*, more immediate. Get the word out twice as fast. And we also figured it would help us financially in the long run, as well as giving vendors a better deal. With the paper coming out every two weeks, it was hard for street salesmen/women to support themselves. But now there'll always be a reasonably fresh Space City! to peddle on street corners, at schools, concerts, etc.

The weekly Space City! would work like this. Three weeks out of every month we'd put out an issue like this one: lots of news and cultural coverage. Not real thick, not real fancy. Every fourth issue would be more of a magazine

format. In addition to the local news there'd be long analytical articles, photo essays, interviews, lots of art. A big thick number once a month.

Anyway, all our ideas required, Four: MONEY. At least \$3,000. Hopefully more. And our friends came through. Folksinger Phil Ochs flew in from California and did a concert for us, just for the price of the plane ticket. Local rock bands did an all day Sunday rock concert benefit at Of Our Own. We had a cocktail party fundraising affair. We stood on corners with cans. And we got the money. Not enough to feel real secure, but enough.

And so, here we are. In your hands. The new Space City! But of course, we aren't yet where we want to be. We *do* think we're now heading in the right direction, though. But to stay on the path, we need your continuing help. Tell us if you like what we're doing, how we can do it better. If you're interested in writing, taking photos, helping in any way, call us at 526-6257 or drop by our office at 1217 Wichita.

Oh, then there's distribution. We need to expand circulation significantly. Like double it. Here you can *really* help. Sell the paper. Pick them up at our office or at one of the vendor distribution points (see list elsewhere). You pay 10 cents and keep the extra dime on every copy sold. Also, we need people to help with distribution routes — taking papers around to shops once a week. And we need ideas. If you know of places that might sell Space City!, call up and give us the word. If you want information or have ideas about distribution, call the office and ask for Bobby or Bill. (Don't procrastinate; do it now!)

And, naturally, we still need help of the more mundane sort. We expect to work at a deficit for a few months, until we can expand distribution and advertising to the point that they can make the paper totally self-sufficient. During that time, your support is greatly needed. Buy a sub or two or three (one for Uncle Ernie). Drop off a ten spot at our office. Make a monthly pledge to the paper (\$100 a month would support one of our paid staffers). And we need other kinds of things than money: office supplies, chairs, typewriters, photographic equipment, tape recorders, motor vehicles of any shape or form, an air conditioning unit. And more and more . . . and more.

We should mention here that we are not a money grubbing enterprise. (Surprise . . .) We are published by the Lyman Padde Educational Project, Inc. — a non-profit corporation registered with the state of Texas. At present, we have ten paid staffers. Paid means \$100 a month. That ain't much. But we have trouble paying that.

There's lots more things we could tell you about ourselves, but we'll be writing you more of these letters and we don't want to tell you everything all at once. One more thing we *do* want to do though, is to take this space to thank all our brothers and sisters who came through for us when we needed help. The following is a fairly arbitrary list of folks who helped us out in one way or another while we were temporarily out of business. It does not pretend to be complete and includes almost none of the people who gave us cash donations. If you aren't on it and should be, sorry. Anyway, thanks and a tip of our furry topknot to:

Benj. Feld	Dan Earhart	Marty Elfant
Effie Feld	Ed Beacham	Claude Bossert
Mike Harvey	Mike Shugart	Gay Liberation
Tim Leatherwood	Bruiser Barton	Ed Mallett
Phil Ochs	Bill Narum	Vince Williams
Z.Z. Top	Texas	Hi Skool Rising
Denim	Danny Garrott	Brazos St. News
Ginger Valley	Jeff Sherro	Yvone Hauge
La Paz	Larry Lee	Switchboard
Stone Ax	KPFT-FM	Rice freaks
Bob Brogan	KAUM-FM	Ed Crane
Reb Smith	KLQL-FM	Margaret Dreyer
Francis Yeager	Of Our Own	Nina Wouk

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as Sergeant came back into the room, asked who we were, and we told him. He asked us to wait in the front office, that they had some business yet to conduct."

The business conducted that day resulted in the arrest of at least 22 persons, 11 of whom were later released without charge. Six charges of possession of marijuana, one charge of aggravated assault of a police officer, one charge of felonious malicious mischief to a police car, one charge of inciting to riot, four charges of failure to move on, and one charge of public drunkenness were filed against the remaining 11.

Arthur Vance, 31, a former state legislator from Pasadena, was arrested and charged with failure to move on.

Vance arrived at the park with his nine year old daughter after most of the action was over. He said that he was stopped by a policeman and told to leave. "Why?" he asked. "What's going on?"

He again was told to leave, and again he repeated his question.

"That's enough from you," replied the cop, who then frisked Vance and took his wallet. There was a moment's hesitation when the police saw the card identifying Vance as a former member of the Texas House, but they then ordered him into a paddy wagon, ignoring his request to reassure his daughter who had begun to cry.

Vance and four other people were taken to Park Place substation. "A question that occurs to me," said Vance, "is how many other people were taken to other stations?" The daily papers only reported those people who were taken to the Reisner St. station, so there is no really accurate count on the total number of people arrested.

"I also wonder," said Vance, "how much it cost people to get back all those cars they towed off. I saw about 25 wreckers there, and they were towing off cars all over the place."

On Wednesday, March 31, Vance, who now sports a beard and shoulder-length hair, appeared before City Council and complained that he and other prisoners were subjected to considerable verbal abuse and harassment by police.

At least two persons were injured seriously enough to require hospitalization. A narcotics agent, Bruce Sheetz, 24 suffered chest and arm injuries. David White, 22, also suffered minor injuries. White was released from Ben Taub Monday night, and Sheetz was reported in satisfactory condition in Methodist.

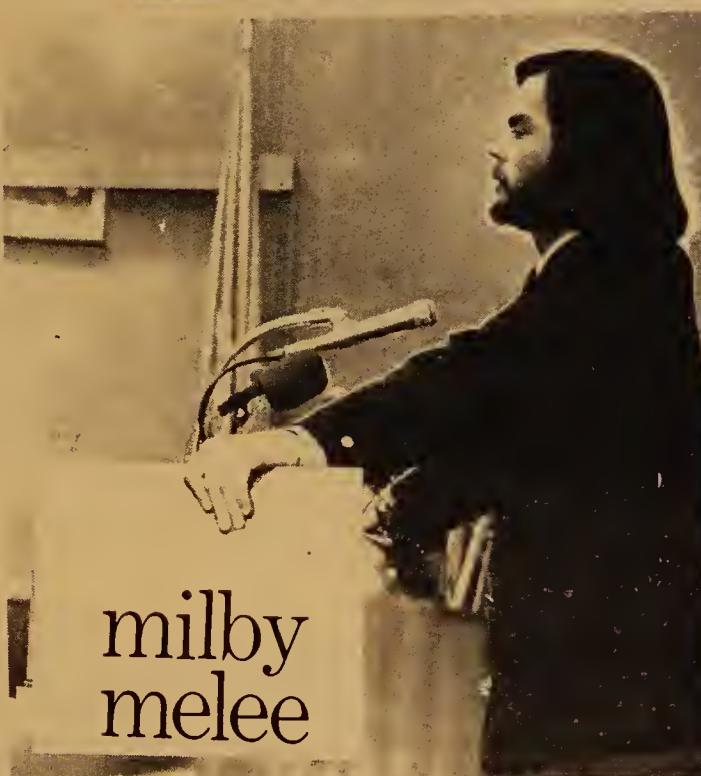
Space City! reporters at the police station shortly after the incident reported seeing several long-haired narcotics agents who had been injured in the melee.

If there were 2,000 people at Milby Park that Sunday, there must be almost that many different interpretations of what really happened. There is fairly common agreement among witnesses on a few points, however.

For most of the morning, plain-clothes narcotics agents had been mixing with the crowd along "Dealers' Row," a wooded section of the park where small merchants peddled chemical antidotes to plastic suburbs and the rigors of second period civics.

John, age 17: "People knew they (narcotics agents) were there, but this wasn't different from any other Sunday, and we didn't think they'd pull something like this."

Larry, age 18: "They busted these two guys and they were taking them away and people started crowding around. People were yelling, 'Are we



Arthur Vance at City Council.

photo by Linda Seely

gonna let 'em bust our brothers?' And then fighting started and the guys ran off."

Patrolman B.D. Jackson: "We walked into the crowd and I observed many narcotic violations in open view. I became separated from Officer Collins and I arrested a white male, approximately 19 to 20 years old, who was trying to sell a baggie of marijuana. I took the baggie from this white male and I started walking him back to where the police cars were parked. The crowd became aware that we were arresting narcotics violators and they surrounded me and were screaming, 'Narcs, narcs, narcs,' and 'Butcher the hogs,' and 'Kill the pigs.' They pulled the prisoner away from me and disappeared into the crowd. The crowd started throwing rocks and bottles at me, and I was hit several times about my body. I retreated toward the police cars, and I thought that I, and the officers at the police cars, were going to be seriously injured. I knew I had to disperse the crowd, and I drew my pistol, a 9 mm Browning automatic, and I fired it three times straight up in the air."

At about the same time that Jackson fired his shots, between one and two dozen uniformed police began pouring into the park from the back side of the woods. They apparently had been standing by at a little grocery on the corner of Old Galveston Road and Park Terrace Blvd.

Frank, age 17: "Then everybody started running. I heard shots and I turned around and saw this guy fall down. I didn't stick around to see if he was shot."

Rick, age 14: "There was this guy back down by the river and for some reason this pig started chasing him. The guy ran by another pig then the first pig raised his gun and said 'Stop or I'll shoot.' Bang! The guy fell on his face. The pigs started beating him and some girl started screaming, 'Roy Roy!' The pig pushed her back and said, 'Shut up, you little bitch.'"

Numerous witnesses report the police chasing and beating people in different parts of the park. One of those arrested, Donald Keith Sanders, was beaten and stuffed into the trunk of a patrol car — in the words of Capt. Renois, he was "placed in the rear of one of the police cars for his own and the officer's safety."

Initial reports from the park indicated that one and possibly two people had been shot. However, after questioning approximately two dozen witnesses, Space City! reporters could find no conclusive evidence that this actually occurred — only that shots had been fired and one or two persons fell to the ground.

Nobody was certain whether the people who fell were shot, had stumbled or were merely trying to keep from being shot. We've heard no

reports of persons missing after the incident. No local hospital admits receiving anyone shot at Milby. And nobody could find blood stains on the ground, which would have been left had anyone actually been hit. So at this point, despite rumors to the contrary, we don't think anyone was shot during the incident.

However, there were almost certainly more shots fired than the original three, which is all the police will admit to. Many witnesses report chases through the park with cops firing their guns into the air.

As soon as it became evident that the narcs had rolled more than they could smoke, a call for assistance went out, and police cars poured into the park by the dozens. When we arrived at the park about an hour after the incident started, there were maybe a hundred police cars parked in a lot near the park. Most of those police, however, never left the parking lot, and estimates are that no more than 30 or 40 police actually took part in the arrests.

Some persons involved in the incident charged that the tactics used by the police were premeditated to provoke a reaction such as occurred, perhaps in order to discredit the free concerts.

Cliff Davis, a member of the Sunshine Collage which co-sponsors the concerts with radio station K101-FM, reported that custodial personnel normally at the park on Sundays did not report for work that morning.

The presence of uniformed police on standby near the park also indicated to many persons that police anticipated some trouble in making the arrests.

However, one Houston reporter who has close contact with the police department didn't agree with this opinion.

"I'd almost swear that uniformed police found out about the plan almost by accident. It was like they saw the narcotics agents leaving, asked where they were going and decided then to go along. I could be wrong about that, but I'd almost swear that that was how it happened."

"Could the narcs have been so stupid to think they could just walk into the park and rip people off without getting the kind of response they got?" we asked.

"I think they were that stupid," the reporter replied.

Other people have complained about the fact that the police used pistols and riot guns, rather than non-lethal riot control weapons such as tear gas, in controlling the crowd. But that seems to fit the pattern of previous police activity here: they seem to prefer shooting and clubbing to gassing.

The case of Jack Ford, the KTRH newsman who witnessed the police beating two prisoners at the police station, is an interesting study in vanishing brutality. Ford's original statement became so compromised over a four-day period that one almost expected the mayor to issue a citation commanding the officers on their restraint.

The conclusion reached by the police was "that Mr. Ford did not see nor hear the provocation leading to the . . . incident," and that the police actions were "a spontaneous reaction of the Sergeant and Officer Halm in protection of themselves."

KTRH management, reacting as if Jack Ford had been caught spitting in an FCC Commissioner's soup, dropped the issue and instructed Ford to make no further statements.

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pleasantville strike

by Michele Toth

Tenants at the Pleasantville Apartments in Southeast Houston are on strike again.

There's a new landlord, but conditions at these substandard dwellings are as bad as ever.

Ownership of the apartments is changing hands from Field Enterprises to the Federal Housing Authority. But striking tenants of the Pleasantville Committee for Community Improvement (PCCI) seem to feel that no change is forthcoming for their living situations.

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The Pleasantville tenants are picketing and withholding rent, because conditions in the apartments are below the city housing code — and nothing is being done about it.

These apartments were originally short-term units constructed during World War II to last 15 years. They have been standing for 25. The apartments are pleasantly situated under the neon sign of a Budweiser Plant, with that big flapping bird surrounded by varicolored pollution from nearby factories.

Arthur Murray, spokesman for the PCCI, addressed a group of tenants and homeowners two weeks ago at a meeting to which Harold Painter, director of the FHA in Houston, had been invited to discuss the citizens' demands.

Painter never showed up. He later said, "There was nothing of any consequence that I could relate to the tenants." Painter admits he has never been to Pleasantville.

In the fall of 1970 Pleasantville tenants who had formed the PCCI decided to strike when the demands they made were not met. Field Enterprise ignored the requests of "1) An immediate reduction in rent of \$3 per unit as long as the premises are below housing code standards; 2) Elimination of exploitive late charges; 3) Substantial improvement to begin within two weeks; 4) A written lease to all tenants who wish to sign one." They also called for tenants to stop paying rent until the conditions of the apartments were improved.

The FHA does not yet have the title to the apartments, but is acting as "mortgagee in possession," according to Painter. The officials are "acting as custodians".

They are still collecting rent however and are asking individuals to sign leases, which Murray said "give all your rights to the landlord . . . anything that happens to the apartments is the tenant's responsibility after he has signed this lease." If a tenant pays his rent, he is automatically on the tenants lease.

Since the FHA has taken over, some of the tenants are crossing the picket lines to pay their rent again, but Murray says the majority of them are still withholding. Some of the leaders of this movement, including Murray were evicted, but are moving back in. They all agree that if the FHA comes to put them out there will be a "constructive fight in the Pleasantville apartments".

There is the possibility that if the apartments are torn down, and new, better apartments are not built, a business will buy the land and build another factory. This has motivated black homeowners to more actively support the PCCI. Renters feel this will help them greatly in their struggle.

As far as the striking tenants are concerned, the "FHA is just another slum lord."

texas rose strike

The Texas Rose Cafe is closed. Whether it will open again — and who will be running it if it does — is anybody's guess.

Workers at the restaurant called a work stoppage last week, demanding from owner Ashby Cleveland more control over the business. Cleveland responded by firing everybody on the spot without negotiations. "I wanted basic control, and they didn't want

me to have control. That's what it was," said Cleveland.

And that's probably the only point the two sides agree on.

The Rose workers, who consider themselves a family, say that Cleveland was using the restaurant to promote his political philosophy. "He's always coming on with this revolutionary, anti-capitalist line, but it doesn't mean anything. Because he just turns around and says how this belongs to him because he paid for it. Lots of us have worked there for a year, two years. He's only been there a few months, and he doesn't work at all, but it's his because he 'paid for it.'

"He doesn't understand when we say how we love every board in that place. He can't understand that. He knew how much we love the place and he always held it over our heads, just so we would keep it open. We were the revolution there, without slogans or any other rhetoric."

The Rose workers feel that there were at least two firings simply for conflicts in political views.

"One employee was fired for saying, 'Fuck you' to a friend of Cleve's and we had nothing to say about that. We just couldn't control it. Another man who shared Cleve's ideas was openly dealing in the place and even threatened to kill two people there. He was kept on as an employee. There was another instance when George (also a friend of Cleve's) pulled a knife on Frannie, the cook. He stayed on also. Whether these were two idle threats doesn't matter; they simply had no place there."

Cleveland says that the Rose was losing money and he blames the staff. "They needed a manager, somebody to manage them. When I came in, I hoped they could run the place, with some help from me. I didn't know anything about business. But it just didn't work out. We were on two different trips. I had to fire them after they had that strike or whatever it was; there was no other way."

The workers don't think the lack of money was their fault. "We never made any purchases except for food and beer. And we were doing better on those than we'd ever done before. Cleveland ran the place with an open checkbook. The books weren't kept up."

He went out and spent \$1,500 on a PA system for the place after all of us and even the guy he bought it from told him it wouldn't work in there. It didn't. Things like that. That's why we were losing money. We were continually refused meetings and financial statements. When Michael (Condrey) was there, if any of us had problems we'd talk about them. We made decisions together. Cleveland wouldn't work like that. It just got to be impossible.

"People would come in and ask us what was going on with the place. Narcotics were being dealt openly. There was under age drinking. A disregard of health rules. Tom Woolridge and Sonya Richardson had the license. If there was a bust for these things, they would have gone to jail, but they had absolutely no control over what went on."

Cleveland says that if he can get a liquor license and find more workers, he will open again this week, though it will have to be under a new name. Would he consider selling out to the workers? "No." Emphatically.

The workers want the Rose back — without Cleveland. "All we want to do is serve good cheap food, not political rhetoric. We think there should be a community boycott if he reopens. But we'd like for people to tell us what they think about that. People should come by and talk to us. We live in the Fern house at 2416 Bagby."

Ashby Cleveland lives above the Rose. The telephone number is 528-8306. People might like to tell him what they think, too.

— Dennis Fitzgerald



FCC SAYS “Stop The Music!”

by Dennis Fitzgerald

One month ago, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a "public notice" to the effect that radio stations had better take a closer look at the records they've been playing.

The March 5 notice didn't specifically prohibit anything. It simply reaffirmed the responsibility of station management for any material broadcast, and then stated that airing records which "promote illegal drug usage . . . raises serious questions as to whether continued operation of the station is in the public interest."

Some radio people and one FCC commissioner are wondering whether the continued operation of the FCC is in the public interest.

Commissioner Nicholas Johnson, the lone dissenter in the 5-1-1 decision, described the action as "an unsuccessfully disguised effort to censor song lyrics that the majority disapproves of . . . an unconstitutional action by a Federal agency aimed clearly at controlling the content of speech."

In an interview by KSAN-FM in San Francisco, Johnson claimed that, prior to its decision, the FCC received a presentation that was put together for the President by the Pentagon. He suggested that a lot of the songs under fire "aren't talking about drugs at all — they're anti-war songs or songs attacking the commercial standards of society, the standards of conspicuous

consumption.

"If the FCC is going to be used by the Administration to frighten broadcasters to carry only stuff favorable to it, this country is in a lot more danger than any of us has imagined."

Larry Lee, general manager of KPFT-FM, Pacifica radio, in Houston, shares Johnson's concern about the Pentagon's involvement:

"I think personally that if Johnson's statements are correct about the notice resulting from a Pentagon briefing, even if it was held at the White House, that this is a terrible milestone in FCC actions. The Pentagon's involvement with the FCC should be just zero, and I think that if people are talking about investigating something, that there should be a congressional investigation of the Pentagon's role in this and of the FCC's allowing them to have any involvement in FCC decisions."

However most of the investigating, it seems, is going in the other direction. Lee related this story of an FCC attempt to investigate the activities of one of its own members — Nick Johnson, of course.

"We don't play songs that 'promote or glorify the use of illegal drugs.' But then they aren't making many these days. That was all several years ago. I don't think people sit around now marvelling at the fact that they're smoking marijuana; they just do it."

"An interesting thing that I just got word of happened at — where? — Yale or Harvard, maybe. Some Ivy League school where Nick Johnson spoke recently. He read the transcript of his dissent from the FCC notice and then played some records containing some of his favorite drug lyrics. The whole thing was taped and played over our (Pacifica Foundation's) New York station, WBAI, and I just talked with the station manager there who told me that the FCC has requested a transcript of that recording."

Lee said that Pacifica has filed a protest with the Commission, "a motion for reconsideration on the memorandum of opinion."

"We're going through normal procedural channels. But if someone else doesn't take stronger action — the National Association of Broadcasters or maybe the National Association of Record Manufacturers, which is really the group hardest hit by the notice — then we may decide to take it into court. The Pacifica Foundation is meeting with our lawyers in Washington in May, and something may be decided then."

Frank Stewart, general manager of KLQL-FM, is less concerned about the notice. "I think the action is an implied threat . . . the FCC has awesome powers. Generally, though, I think it's the same sort of over-reaction that's occurring today in every field. In time all that will return to a better position."

He said that KLQL hasn't made any changes as a result of the notice. "We have a three man screening committee. We do make arbitrary judgements on performances — what we think is or isn't suitable for our audience. But we've made damn few deletions because we haven't run across many."

KILT General Manager Dickie Rosenfeld had just received a transcript of the notice. "I really haven't had a chance to get into it yet. Personally, though, I feel that KILT has always been a responsible radio station but what concerns me is that we may be losing our freedom of speech by actions like this."

Leroy Gloger, general manager of KIKK, was familiar with the notice but declined to make any comment on it.

Dan Earhart program director for KAUM, called the notice "unconstitutional. The main effect will be to intimidate a lot of stations. I know of one station here in town that's posted a list of 'Don't Play' songs."

"I think they're not so much trying to stop drug records as they are trying to stop a culture in evolution. But music is only the reflection of the culture, not the cause. Stopping the music won't stop the culture."

Whether the FCC notice will indeed stop the music remains to be seen. Stay tuned and listen for what you can't hear.



Dallas Shoots

Special to Space City!

DALLAS — A three-week police dragnet here resulted in near tragedy for one chicano family, but also created a new sense of mutual support between blacks and browns in this "all-American city."

As police conducted a ruthless search for two men accused of killing three deputy sheriffs, they raided the home of the Thomas Rodriguez family March 19, wounding both Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez and roughing up one of the eight children.

The raid not only drew protest

from an Indiana congressman and other officials, but has brought black and brown community people together for the first time in Dallas. For the last five Saturdays, blacks and browns have rallied in downtown Dallas in support of the Rodriguez family as well as the Southern Christian Leadership Council anti-hunger campaign now underway.

The events leading up to this newfound solidarity started Feb. 15, when two chicanos were arrested in West Dallas for suspicion of petty theft. The two allegedly overpowered five members of the Dallas and Ellis county sheriff's departments, killing three of them before escaping.

Police of every description descended upon the Dallas chicano community, in a frantic effort to capture the fugitives. They searched houses, broke into some homes, stopped virtually every car driven by a brown-skinned man.

One deputy accused the entire chicano community of protecting the suspects.

The search culminated in the March 19 midnight raid on the Rodriguez family apartment. The police apparently wielded their weapons liberally, and Rodriguez was hauled off to the prison ward at the county hospital with gun shot wounds in the thigh, arm and chest. He was then chained to a bed and ignored.

For three days, Rodriguez, who speaks only a few words of English, believed that it had been a case of mistaken identity, that the police thought he was one of the cop-killers.

Only hours after the Rodriguez family was attacked, the two suspects were found hiding in another apartment on the same lot as the Rodriguez home. They were arrested and taken to jail. One arrived with a broken jaw he hadn't had upon arrest.

The public responded with an enormous outpouring of guilty sympathy. In gun-loving Dallas, the idea struck home — you can't even defend your home against unknown invaders without the risk of going to jail.

The sheriff's department, in an attempt to justify its treatment of the Rodriguez family, claimed that Rodriguez had shot at the police after they gave warning. They also claim that an informer told them that the wanted men were in Rodriguez' apartment and that Rodriguez had procured heroin for the men in exchange for the murder weapon (which apparently has never been found, there or anywhere else).

The sheriff also claimed that warnings had been given in both English and Spanish. He implied that Rodriguez is a police character with several aliases and that he is an illegal entrant who is not a citizen.

So Rodriguez was indicted for attempted murder of a policeman, although the grand jury no billed him on the dope charge for lack of even circumstantial evidence.

It was later learned that the police were accompanied on their raid by Justice of the Peace Tom Naylor, who later arraigned the alleged killers. W. O. Bankston, Jr., son of the former sheriff's best friend and Brian Hunsaker, once part of the district attorney's staff and lawyer for a local dope informer, were also in on the raid.

Each has said that he had no particular reason to be there — they all just went along for the ride. Raiding parties are evidently a big social feature in cop life.

They, of course, support the police story. But other residents of the apartment house, including the manager, tell a different tale. They say the police did not check to see who lived in the apartment or whether children were there. They did not use a bull horn or tear gas or any of the other less lethal tools available to drive out a suspect.

Robert Heinsohn, who lives over the Rodriguez apartment, said that he was awake and heard no warning. He showed the many bullet holes in his own apartment. Heinsohn was convicted of interference with an officer during a civil disturbance and sentenced to six years in prison the following week. (Heinsohn was among those arrested after a major police riot in a Dallas park last April 12, an event known as the Lee Park Massacre.) He has been threatened with reprisal should he act as a witness for the Rodriguez defense.

The situation was so badly bungled by the police that even the local news media seemed sympathetic to the victims and public officials from Paul Moreno, state representative, El Paso, to Sen. Birch Bayh, (Dem., Indiana) are calling for FBI and Justice Department investigations of the incident.

Bayh asked U.S. Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell for an investigation of what he called "Wanton shootings" of chicanos in Texas cities. He said he had received complaints from labor leaders and a legal aid group in Dallas suggesting, he wrote Mitchell, "that police officers from the Dallas County sheriff's department have 'terrorized' large segments of the Mexican-American population in that city in the period Feb. 15-20, 1971, in search of some fugitives from the same ethnic group."

Bayh described the Rodriguez incident and referred to other incidents in Brownsville, Pharr and San Antonio.

Local politicians have, of course, defended the police. And Sen. John G. Tower (Rep.-Texas) essentially told Bayh to mind his own business and keep his fingers out of Texas politics.

But let them have their investigations — who needs them? From this event has come unprecedented impetus for more growing together within the movement in Dallas. Not only are blacks and browns holding public rallies and marches, but they are for the first time working together in local elections, on community organization, and on local control of the police.

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...and Houston Bombs

by Thorne Dreyer

"It looks like the insurance companies are going to achieve what the bombers have been unable to accomplish: to take away our office."

Debby Leonard, Socialist Workers Party (SWP) candidate for mayor of Houston, spoke to local media at a hastily-called press conference less than three weeks after the SWP office was bombed by right wing terrorists.

They had just been informed by their landlord that they were to be evicted from their office at 3808 Wheeler. Their insurance was being cancelled. Why? ". . . none of our companies will write it (the policy) until such time as the parties involved that were bombed this month are removed from the premises." That came from Federated/Austin and Co., insurance agents. "The insurance companies in the city of Houston have decided to put us out of business," Leonard said. "This is the result of the last five or six years of terrorist activities in Houston. Bombers have had free reign to operate; the police have given the insurance companies no indication the activities will end."

We talked to landlord Alan Aronstein. "The terms of our mortgage say we have to carry insurance, and as long as the SWP is there no one will insure the place," he said. "I can't lose the building. My uncle even called Lloyds of London, and they won't take it."

Alan Aronstein doesn't like the bombers ("Anyone who'd do that ought to have their head examined."), and says he feels bad about having to evict the SWP. But, "that's unfortunately the situation. I feel terrible but there's nothing I can do."

And so, political repression in Houston has taken a rather unusual turn. Candidate Leonard: "First our headquarters is bombed, then the city administration and the law enforcement agencies fail to take any action to bring the guilty parties to justice and instead they accuse us of bombing our own headquarters. Finally we, the victims, are punished further by the deprivation of our headquarters."

The bombing of the SWP headquarters on Wheeler, which occurred early in the morning of Friday, March 12, was the latest in a continuing stream of right wing assaults on progressive groups here. For several years now, the terrorists have moved quite

freely through the Houston night, shooting up homes and businesses and throwing firebombs and pipe bombs at any and everyone left of the Houston City Council. And, if 1970 wasn't a good enough year for vigilante action, 1971 is off to a smashing start. There have been at least five bombings so far this year. Some terrorist targets in the past have seemed unlikely (Dreyer Galleries was shot up four years ago, for instance), but one earlier this year is perhaps the strangest. A motorcycle shop — Sport Cycles of Houston, 7637½ Long Point. Why were they picked out? Joe Wolf, one of the owners, thinks he knows. "It was the same kind of right wingers who bombed the Forward Times and the Socialist Workers Party. They did it because we sell Cz brand Czechoslovakian motorcycles . . . far out!"

The Sport Cycles bombing occurred on Jan. 16. It was a pipe bomb, apparently similar to the one used on the General Store in January. Damage to the motorcycle shop was close to \$2,000.

Only one of the recent bombees — the East Texas Cafe at 2717 Dowling — doesn't believe the culprits to be reactionary night riders. Owner Robert Edwards says he thinks their firebombing was done by an ex-customer who was bounced for creating a disturbance and wanted to get even.

A recent occurrence that should at the least raise some eyebrows is a fire that occurred in stock room of Art Supply, 915 Richmond Ave. Art Supply is owned by Ben Russell, former New Party candidate for the U.S. Senate and prominent liberal activist. The fire, which caused \$50,000 worth of damage, was officially labeled an accident. And Russell says he has no evidence to suggest it was anything else. But we should note that shots were fired into Russell's house and into New Party headquarters last December and that windows were smashed out at New Party the first of this year. Yes, says Russell, one might see a pattern there . . .

So, what's being done about all this? As usual, very little. Jimmie Hutto was busted (for conspiring to bomb Pacifica Foundation radio stations in California) and was sent away for 90 days to have his head checked out. But the bombings go on.

On March 15, Mayor Louie Welch called the bombings "un-American, un-Texan and un-Houstonian." But

the SWP candidates went before City Council and asked for an open public investigation and the firing of Police Chief Short. And the most significant response they got was from councilman Lee McLemore who, according to the Houston Post, mouthed the prevailing right wing line — that maybe they bombed themselves or were bombed by others on the left.

To this, SWP city council candidate Paul McNight responded "... we are not going to stand for anyone in this community trying to make the victims look like criminals." Now, with the eviction news, Debby Leonard tells us, "For those who have accused us of bombing ourselves, this should set the record straight; I suppose now we've evicted ourselves!"

A public meeting about the bombings was held Friday, March 19. But,

though a Houston Post editorial urged the local citizenry to attend, only about 75 folks showed. Calling for unified action to counter the vigilantes were representatives from SWP, Pacifica radio, Voice of Hope newspaper, Welfare Rights Organization, National Organization for Women, Space City!, Operation Breadbasket and the Houston Committee to End the War. The meeting, though, was rather ineffectual and many people left more frustrated than when they came.

And meanwhile, paranoia maintains the upper hand.

I have to end this article now because a strange car is driving slowly by in front of our office and the driver has on some kind of hood and is holding something in his hand and I'd better go check it out . . .



Debbie Leonard protests eviction.

photo by Linda Seely

coward / haile defense

Bartee Haile and Johnny Coward are going to trial soon, and they need our support. The following call to their defense comes from Ron Young of Houston Gay Liberation.

Do you recall the night of July 26, 1970 when the Houston Police Department attacked the members and supporters of Peoples Party II and the black community as a whole? Police snipers shot down Carl Hampton, the Peoples Party II chairman, and wounded several others.

Two days later, while hospitalized with serious wounds suffered in attempts to reach the fallen Hampton, Johnny Coward, a Peoples Party II member, and Bartee Haile of the white John Brown Revolutionary League were arrested. The two were later indicted on charges of "assault to murder a police officer" and "assault to murder". The first carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment and the second two to 25 years. Coward and Haile go on trial Monday, May 17.

I believe that both Coward and Haile are innocent of the charges brought against them. But even if they had defended themselves against the attack of the Houston Police on that night, it would have been no crime. The real criminals still carry badges and guns and wage war against the common people on behalf of the rich.

To defend and support Coward and Haile is to support those who are fighting for necessary and meaningful change. We must respond with militant support. This is the only way our common interests will ever be achieved.

The defense committee is in need of volunteers who are able to donate time or money. The work to be done requires sincere and dedicated effort. By May 17 the broadest possible support must be mobilized.

Volunteers may contact The Committee to Defend and Support Johnny Coward and Bartee Haile, 5003 Austin, Houston 77004. Phone 526-6657.



PHOTO BY Cam Duncan

Violence in Houston Schools

Cops in the Schoolyard

by Karen Northcott

The 1970 - 1971 school year has been plagued with incidents of violence. Racial conflicts, disturbances, theft and vandalism are increasing in the Houston area schools. Among them:

February: Sam Houston High, 9400 Irvington. Two days of disruptions. One student seriously injured.

March 11: Marshall Junior High, 1115 Noble. Fighting erupted. Three students injured.

March 15: Jack Yates High, 3703 Sampson. Female teacher raped.

March 16: Jack Yates. Male teacher attacked.

March 24: Deady Junior High, 2500 Broadway. Racial violence. Seven students injured.

In light of the recent events at the schools, teachers are calling for more protection, the school district is hiring more security guards, students are being required to wear identification tags, curriculum is being scrutinized and a hearing has been held on truancy, crime, vandalism, and other juvenile crimes encountered on campuses.

One student was injured seriously at Sam Houston High in a cafeteria disruption. Fighting broke out in the cafeteria and a student was stabbed in the stomach. The Sam Houston principal blamed outsiders for the conflict. As a result, two security guards have been assigned to the school and a student identification card system has been initiated.

Three students were injured in a girls' fight at Marshall Junior High. One girl was shot, another slashed on the head and a male bystander was also shot. The fight erupted as the girls were waiting to board a school bus. One pulled a sharp instrument and slashed the other across the side of the head.

The other then drew a gun from her purse and shot her attacker. The bullet grazed her back and lodged in the leg of the bystander boy. The incident wasn't racial.

Outsiders were involved in the two incidents at Jack Yates. A woman teacher was beaten and raped as she was leaving the school grounds. The attacker had reportedly received a failing grade a year ago from the teacher. Although the victim was not able to identify her attacker another teacher who tried to grab the rapist said that he told her he had attacked the woman because of the failing grade.

Another teacher at Yates was attacked while pushing a dolly down the hallway. Jack Chapman, coordinator of the audio-visual aids, said he was walking down the hallway when two males shouted at him. One hit him on the side of the head with a large rock and then fled.

A teacher who witnessed the attack recognized the attacker as a student who was suspended during the fall semester.

Racial violence lightened attendance at Deady Junior High. Two fights ended in a free-for-all in the main hall after lunch. Tension continued throughout the day and subsided only after most of the 2,300 students had gone home.

Seven students — two black and five white — were injured and had to be given medical treatment.

White students said the fighting was initiated by blacks. The blacks deny the charge, saying that friction hasn't lessened since November when eight students were arrested during racial disturbances.

As a result of the violence the Houston Independent School District is hiring more security guards. School Superintendent George C. Garver requested an increased security force. The district security force previously numbered 17. A \$50,000 budget supplement was approved by the school board members to pay for 23 additional guards.

Upon asking for the supplement, Garver commented that "it is a serious indictment of our society that this expenditure is necessary."

Security guards, although commonplace in other large city school districts, are new to Houston. None of the district's 229 schools had guards last year. The guards do not wear uniforms. They work out of private detective agencies at an hourly rate of \$2.50 to \$3.

The principals of those schools utilizing the security guards are confident that the usual school staff can handle student problems, but have been unable to keep non-students away. They feel that the security guards are the only available aids.

Some schools have initiated a student identification card system requiring students to wear or carry name tags.

Many students feel that the wearing of identification cards merely adds to the prison like atmosphere of the schools.

In the wake of the recent events, Houston teachers are demanding increased discipline in the schools and protection from those who disrupt the schools.

The Houston Teachers Association (HTA) which represents 87.5 per cent of the teachers in the Houston school district, has repeatedly asked the administration to provide more security and to enforce discipline more strictly, "but nothing has been done," according to James Melton, National Education Association aide.

The HTA has appealed to the City Council to endorse pending legislation to stop loitering on school property and disruption of the schools.

Melton believes that the only way to solve the problem in Houston is for the teachers to unite and to form faculty advisory committees, to work with the administration and to have a voice in the setting of the disciplinary policies.

"We hope to unify the teachers because once the teachers get fully involved in the schools and in politics, there will be changes," said Melton.

The HTA has also adopted two resolutions dealing "with the discipline problems and physical attacks teachers face in schools."

One resolution asks Garver to order any student using profanity or calling teachers vulgar names suspended for three days for the first offense. A second offense and the student would be expelled..

The second resolution asks the school board to take responsibility for medical and hospital bills arising from injuries teachers suffer while working.

In the chaos which has followed the school disturbances, there has been little speculation about the underlying factors which provoke the students to violence. The school system as it exists now is geared to the all-American white child who sits in class with hands folded, never questioning the teacher.

There is a wholly new mood spreading among a significant segment of the student population. The old way of boss rule, discrimination and disrespect aimed toward the students must be abolished. There is a war of sorts on now, a war of liberation being fought against whoever gets in the way — whether they are teachers, school board members, school principals or even other students.

Students are frustrated and alienated and they are striking out at whoever is around. The curriculum is outdated; it doesn't meet the needs of this generation of students. The values preached in the schools are not their values. The American Dream has been tried and been found lacking. First Amendment freedoms are not for those in the schools, as can be seen in the number of students arrested for selling Space City! and similar publications near campuses.

If the public school system is to survive, the curriculum must not only be scrutinized, but changed to meet the needs of the students — not just the affluent whites but the poor whites, blacks and browns. The schools must be made exciting and challenging. The teachers and the administrators must allow the students their constitutional and human rights. Tightening security will not solve the problem as the current turmoil in the nation's prisons demonstrates.

IN BAYTOWN AND HOUSTON

Election Code Challenged

A Baytown man successfully challenged the Baytown city election code last week and won a position on the ballot, though he does not own real property in the city.

His victory may influence the outcome of a similar challenge now being waged by the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in Houston.

U.S. District Judge Allan B. Hanney ruled Monday, March 29, that Carl E. Connerton, Jr., must be placed on the April 6 ballot.

Connerton, 26 year old employee for Firestone, wanted to run for city council this year, but was informed that the city charter requires candidates to hold real property. Connerton didn't have any, so he took the case to court.

Armed with precedents set in other states, Connerton brought his own case before the U.S. District Court even though the March 6 filing deadline had passed.

Hannay's temporary injunction calls the Baytown requirement unconstitutional, as it violates the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing equal protection under the law. The ruling, however, does not apply to other Texas cities with the same charter provisions.

The Baytown City Council decided not to appeal the decision, since an

appeal would have delayed the election indefinitely.

Connerton said he thinks that if he wins the election, which begins as Space City! goes to press, the city will probably appeal the injunction.

Since he had only a week to campaign, Connerton said he has no way of gauging his popular support, but he said he feels he is addressing issues

other candidates ignore.

"Human injustice," he said. "That's what got me into it." He said that before he moved to Baytown a year ago, he worked as a radio newsmen and saw too much "human injustice."

He said that while he is not "anti-police," he feels that the local police department is "too strong." They don't feel they have to answer to

anybody.

"There is no reason in the world why the average common man can't be treated like a human being," Connerton said.

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in Houston is currently filing suit in federal court against the city of Houston election code.

The SWP plans to run candidates for mayor and for three city council positions in the coming elections.

Attorneys David Berg and Stuart Nelkin of the ACLU are handling the SWP suit. The suit will challenge the constitutionality of Houston's real property requirement, the residency requirement and the filing fee requirement.

The city charter sets a \$1,250 filing fee for the position of mayor and \$500 for city council positions. The charter also requires a candidate to own Houston property for at least two years and to have lived in Houston for at least five years.

Debby Leonard, SWP candidate for mayor, said, "We think we're going to win. These things are being thrown out all over the country."

Attorney Berg also thinks the suit has a good chance. He added that the challenge "strikes a blow at property concepts that govern this country."



by Sue Mithun

Demonstrations across the nation last weekend in memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. (assassinated April 7, 1968) inaugurated a national spring offensive for peace and social justice.

The Houston Committee to End the War sponsored a service in tribute to King at the Rothko Chapel at St. Thomas University. The service was led by Rev. Bill Lawson of the Wheeler Ave. Baptist Church and Father Jim Barnett of the University of Houston Religion Center. During the service, people who are refusing to pay war taxes (phone tax, or 60 per cent of income tax) offered their withheld money to the Houston Welfare Rights Organization. A statewide fund to channel war tax money into the fight against hunger and oppression is being started in Austin.

For the first time in the history of the American left, national Third World organizations are joining with

the antiwar movement in conducting a spring offensive. The People's Coalition for Peace and Justice is sponsoring national actions the beginning of April and the first week in May. The coalition includes most major peace organizations plus the National Welfare Rights Organization, Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

The decision of these groups to join in the spring activities is based on the agreement of large segments of the peace movement to place equal emphasis on questions of social justice and peace. Thus, the three demands:

1. Immediate total withdrawal from Vietnam by a set date.
2. \$5,500 minimum annual income for a family of four by a set date.
3. Free all political prisoners by a set date.

At the end of the April actions in

New York, SCLC will lead a mule train march down the East Coast to Washington, asking people to join in the May actions.

Here in Houston there will be a May Day teach-in and rally in Hermann Park on Sunday, April 11. The theme of the day will be, "Peace is coming because the people are making the peace." Discussion groups will talk about different ways to pressure the government to end the war — ways such as the People's Peace Treaty, tax resistance and the May Day actions in Washington. There will also be discussion of tentative plans for May Day actions in Houston. In addition to the rap groups there will be guerilla theater, music and anything else you bring to share. And, on April 17, there will be a peace rally in Hermann Park.

The Washington actions are planned as follows:

April 10: a women's march on

the Pentagon

April 19-23: Vietnam Veterans Against the War begin a massive people's lobby demanding that the United States withdraw from Vietnam

April 24: a massive march on Washington

April 25: training in non-violent civil disobedience begins in preparation for May Days

April 26-30: people's lobby for the peace treaty and the demands of the May actions

May 2: a rally for the massive civil disobedience to take place the next day

May 3-4: people's lobby and civil disobedience

May 5: nationwide moratorium on business as usual. Schools and businesses should close in commemoration of the Kent State and Jackson killings and in support of the demands.



Laos Blunder

The following article on the ill-fated Laos Invasion is the first edition of a new regular Space City! column on international events. Gary Thiher, who will author this weekly feature, is news director at KPFT-FM, Pacifica radio in Houston.

by Gary Thiher

On the last day of March, President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam perched himself on two ammunition boxes under a grove of trees at Dongha and blithely proclaimed to newsmen that the recently completed operation in Laos had been "the biggest victory ever" for his army. "I have learned," he said, "through some articles . . . that the redeployment of the Vietnamese troops from Laos is a defeat — disorder, disaster. I believe that is not true and is completely wrong."

About the same time, *Life* magazine's Far East Bureau chief John Saar was writing: "'A rout,' says Webster, is 'a state of wild confusion or disorderly retreat.' Had he seen what I saw in South Vietnam's First Military Region last week, I believe Webster would agree that Operation Lam Son 719 ended in a

rout." Credibility gap, anyone?

In many ways, including its glamorous title, Operation Lam Son 719 (why not 718?) reminded one of the great operations launched by U.S. troops in '64-'66 before the troops became totally bottled up in their enclaves. It began in early February with the massing of 20,000 South Vietnamese (ARVN) troops, 9,000 American troops and a full complement of aircraft in the northwest corner of South Vietnam. This remote corner of Military Region I had not seen Allied troops since 1968 when the US Marines abandoned the base at Khe Sanh after a 77 day seige by North Vietnamese.

These preparations took place under the sparse cover of a news embargo imposed by the allied command. Indochina reporters were even forbidden to report the existence of the embargo. The embargo provided little in the way of cover for the impending operation — and it certainly didn't fool the various liberation armies. Later, a captured North Vietnamese soldier revealed that his army had known about the planned invasion of Laos months before.

The ARVN carried out Lam Son 719 in the grand style of their American mentors. 20,000 troops set off in a highly motorized fashion into the panhandle of Laos to disrupt the Ho Chi Minh trail. 9,000 U.S. troops set up support bases across the border, but they were not to enter Laos. Though 600 U.S. helicopters and numerous fixed wing craft stood by to provide firepower, Lam Son 719 was billed as the first big test of Vietnamization.

The ARVN's route lay along narrow Highway 9 which runs east-west across the rugged Laotian panhandle. The area is sparsely populated, and the terrain very rugged. There is really no transportation artery other than the one highway. One might have guessed at the beginning the tanks and half-tracks would run into trouble in such a roadless area. This wild track of land could swallow many times the 20,000 troops committed to it. In fact, contingency plans for such a trail-cutting mission have existed for some time, but called for as many as 200,000 troops. Nonetheless, the ARVN set off, exuding self-confidence and even an ebullient sort of cockiness.

All appeared to go well for 8...10...12 miles.. The ARVN encountered virtually no resistance as they wound their way into Laos. Then came the counter-attack. North Vietnamese troops struck first against the bases which had been set up north of Highway 9 to protect against flanking maneuvers. In quick succession, they overran and virtually wiped out two battalions of elite ARVN rangers.

The ARVN found that while they could not negotiate the unfamiliar territory well enough to bring in armor re-inforcements, their opponents managed to bring tanks into action. The rangers were totally dependent on American helicopters for supply and firepower. But weather and intense anti-aircraft fire so hindered these efforts at using air power that soon there was nothing for the helicopters to do except try to evacuate the survivors.

Meanwhile, the main column found itself hemmed in both fore and aft on the narrow ribbon of highway. Harrassing attacks between the main force and the South Vietnamese border rendered the road useless for supply, leaving the entire operation entirely dependent on the 600 U.S. helicopters to provide a lifeline to the rear. Heavy concentrations of mines and North Vietnamese troops blocked any further progress into Laos. The ARVN was stuck.

As new attacks destroyed several bases to the south of Highway 9, some motion became imperative to prevent the entire operation from becoming the proverbial sitting duck. After being stalled on the road for 10 days, the allied command decided to make good on its previously announced intention of going all the way to Tchepone,, a small town on Route 9 about 25 miles inside Laos.



Since they could not move east, west, north or south on the ground, they decided on a leapfrog tactic; U.S. helicopters picked up several regiments of ARVN troops and dumped them on some hills just outside of the bombed-out town. This could only have been a publicity stunt to allow officials in Saigon to proclaim the operation a success. Surely no one could have believed that the ARVN troops were going to be able to hold Tchepone when they could not even get there on the ground. The hop into this abandoned village proved to be a last act of desperation.

The ARVN 1st Division troops retreated from Tchepone more under the threat than the actuality of North Vietnamese attack. They fell back to a series of firebases whose names became headlines: Firebase Lolo, Landing Zone Brown. Retreat rapidly turned into rout, as the North Vietnamese obliterated unit after unit of the ARVN.

Again, anti-aircraft fire took a heavy toll of helicopters sent in to rescue the devastated South Vietnamese. When the craft did get into a base, troopers overwhelmed them in a rush to get out alive. The healthy pushed aside the wounded in their attempt to scramble on board, and American pilots had to kick soldiers off the overloaded copters in order to get off the ground. Some helicopters whirled over the jungle with ARVN clinging to the landing skids — several of whom fell to their death.

The hardest hit of the three regiments involved — the 3rd suffered 1,550 casualties out of 2,000 men. The regiment's 4th battalion drew the unenviable task of providing rearguard protection; 32 of 500 returned to South Vietnam a third of them wounded.

Even in the face of such total defeat, the ARVN command refused to acknowledge that anything was even wrong. The troops had not intended to remain in Tchepone, they said. They called the bloody trail from Tchepone to Landing Zone Brown "mobile maneuvering."

After such general devastation, the ARVN task force had little choice except to "mobile maneuver" back to South Vietnam as quickly as possible. Or, in the words of one GI at the time "they got their ass kicked and they are hightailing it back." The main column was literally chased out of Laos with a contingent of North Vietnamese tanks close behind. The U.S. blocking force in South Vietnam had to move heavy armor up to the border to prevent the ARVN's pursuers from bringing the battle to a disastrous conclusion.

During the last days of the campaign, the North Vietnamese directed such heavy mortar fire at the main supply base at Khe Sanh that what remained of the helicopter fleet had to be moved to a new station at Ounag Tri further back from the border. Communist troops continued to press attacks around the perimeter of the South Vietnamese base areas, and heavy artillery moved into the demilitarized zone to the north threatened to bombard GIs and ARVN alike.

Today (April 3) the UPI reports that Khe Sanh is empty except for two rear guard companies and a few ARVN. When they leave shortly, all of northwest South Vietnam will again be "enemy territory" for the allies.

Lam Son 719 turned out similarly to the big American operations that preceded it several years ago; it could not seize and control any territory even for a short while. So, again like the U.S. army, the Saigon command resorted to the numbers game to bolster their claims of great victory. ARVN officers announced that they had killed 13,815 North Vietnamese troops and captured or destroyed 176,240 tons of supplies. Alvin Shuster of the New York Times reports this conversation with an American officer in Saigon: "Look at it this way," said the officer, "the Vietnamese say they have killed nearly 14,000 Communists in Laos.

"If you figure that at least two are wounded for every soldier killed, that means that 42,000 Communists were put out of action. Since there were supposed to be only 30,000 Communists in the area in Laos, they are now minus 12,000.

"Now the command says we killed something like 15,000 trucks along the trail since the dry season began in October. They only had about 12,000, so again Hanoi is minus, this time about 3,000 trucks.

"So, if they are minus 9,000 men and 2,000 trucks, it's a wonder they can still keep going on the trail."

A wonder indeed. As for the figure of 176,240 tons of supplies taken, Shuster compares this with a figure of 14,000 as the American estimate.

The ARVN by its own estimate, certainly to be considered minimal, suffered 25% casualties. Journalists report estimates on ARVN casualties from American sources in Saigon as ranging from 33% to 50%. There is no doubt that numerous battalions, like the ill-fated 4th mentioned above, have been simply wiped off the slate.

The administrations in Saigon and Washington both claim that Lam Son 719 caused significant disruption of traffic on the Ho Chi Minh trail. However, reports during the operation, again from anonymous American officials, indicated that traffic had simply moved to the west.

Simple geography is instructed on this point. The Laotian panhandle is over 100 miles wide at Highway 9. Even if we count the helicopter leapfrog to Tchepone, the ARVN never entered Laos more than 25 miles. The troops had intended to stay in Laos throughout the high-traffic dry season, but were driven out six weeks before schedule.

Indeed the operation seems to have accomplished the reverse of each of its goals. Its ultimate purpose according to Nixon was to save American lives. In fact, the operation raised American casualties to the highest level in six months (that is, since the Cambodian operation which was also to save American lives).

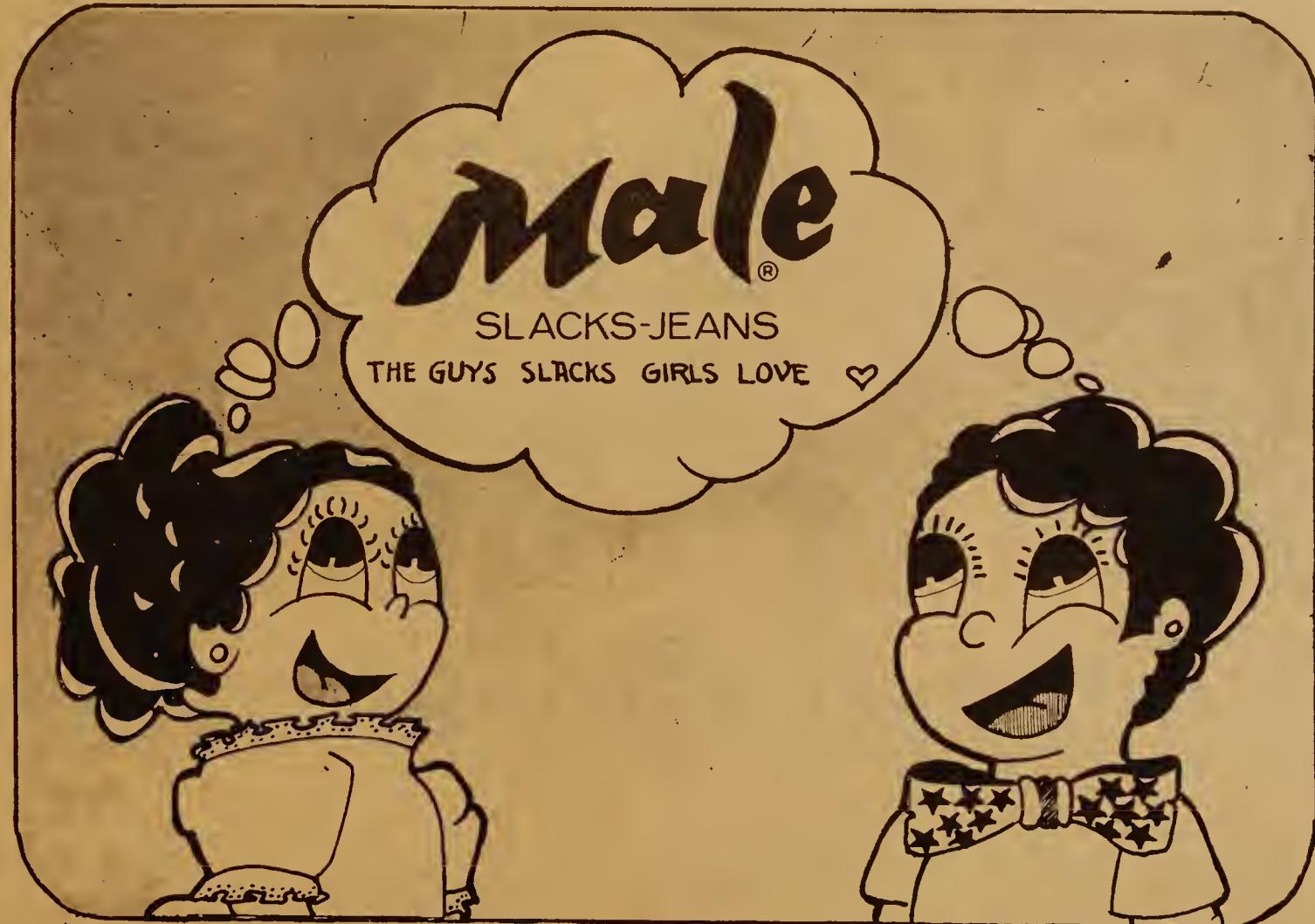
Lam Son 719 was also supposed to prevent any major attacks against bases in South Vietnam. In fact, it sparked liberation troops out of a self-imposed restraint. Since the ARVN retreat, three bases in north central South Vietnam have been completely overrun: Firebase Mary Ann, the provincial capital of Duc Duc, and Firebase No. 6.

The facts remain. The American occupation has proven incapable of seizing control of the countryside from the National Liberation Front. But Washington refuses to give up the hope of maintaining a pro-American regime in Saigon. Thus they have attempted to win a victory in Cambodia and then Laos that they could not gain in Vietnam.

The pro-American government in Phnompenh is a beleaguered outpost. It has no control whatsoever over most of the country and only tenuous sway over the city itself. The American-sponsored expedition into Laos was a complete disaster. It demonstrated conclusively what many people have said: the policy of Vietnamization is not a plan for ending the war but only of changing the color of the corpses.

The options available to imperial policymakers in Washington have been steadily narrowed. The American people will not tolerate any plan which keeps American ground troops in Indochina much longer. Lam Son 719 proved that the ARVN alone cannot accomplish the victory that they could not win even with 500,000 U.S. troops to help. Expanding the war has only made it bigger, not winnable. Conventional bombing of the North has failed. Only three alternatives remain: invade the North, use tactical nuclear weapons, or give Vietnam back to the Vietnamese.

An invasion would not only be annihilated by the North Vietnamese army and militia, but would also probably bring the Peoples Republic of China into the war. The use of tactical nuclear weapons (a term which includes bombs of the size dropped on Japan) could finish the devastation America has wreaked upon Indochina. And, unless the Nixon regime elects to seek peace, it has no other alternative but to think the unthinkable.



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Lt. William Calley, Jr. GUILTY OF MURDER.

Calley has been convicted of four out of five counts charged against him by the Armed Forces for his part in leading an infantry assault on My Lai.

He has been sentenced to life imprisonment.

He has been released from the stockade and confined to his quarters pending review of his conviction, by order of the President of the United States.

And he is now the central figure in what may be one of the most important events of this decade, and certainly one of the most important events of the Indochina War.

Calley is the first to be convicted of 25 officers and enlisted men accused on various charges in connection with the My Lai incident. Charges were dropped against 19 men, two were acquitted by courts martial and the disposition of charges against three men is pending. Court martial proceedings were begun Friday against Col. Oran K. Henderson, charged with the less severe crime of dereliction of duty for not conducting "a proper and thorough investigation" and two charges of making false statements.

During Calley's four month trial, his attorney, George Latimer, ran through a list of defense tactics that changed repeatedly during the course of the trial.

The initial defense claim was that Calley knew of no atrocities committed in the village of My Lai. The defense was then changed to say that some of Calley's men may have committed acts which violated the Geneva Convention rules but if so, Calley had been busy with matters elsewhere and couldn't be expected to watch everybody at once.

After more witnesses and more testimony, the defense began developing the line that Calley may have witnessed or possibly participated in the unnecessary destruction of human beings, but if so his mental condition was such that he couldn't differentiate between fantasy and reality.

After several psychiatrists testified about Calley's mental condition, the defense became, "his military training was such that he was not prepared for Vietnam." Calley told the court that his men had been poorly trained and that they were frightened. He told of thorough conditioning he had undergone at Officer Candidate School which made him distrustful of all Vietnamese and, in fact, caused him to think of them not as people, but only as the Enemy.

He stated he did not remember ever being told of the Geneva Convention rules. (If we are to believe this claim then we have to believe that Lt. Calley carried a small waterproof card with him the whole time he was in Vietnam and never read it. Every American serviceman in Vietnam carries a card with the Geneva Convention rules on it.)



Eventually the defense was pushed to its final stand. While testifying, Calley was asked why he had participated in the murder of unresisting civilians in My Lai, to which he replied, "Those were my orders. Those were the orders of the day." When asked why he had obeyed these orders he said, "I never knew I had any choice."

At last Calley and Latimer arrived at the classic plea for all people charged with war crimes: *I was only taking orders.*

From whom was Lt. Calley taking orders? Capt. Ernest Medina, his commander? Does it end there? Calley testified that it was his duty to obey any orders he received from any person superior to him and that he could be, and had reason to believe he would be, severely punished for failing to do that.

Does this reasoning justify his actions? A portion of the American public seems to think so. They didn't think so when the same defense was used at Nuremberg or more recently by Adolf Eichmann. The military jury at Calley's court martial didn't think so.

Yet all over Houston in the last several days we've seen signs reading, "Free Calley." One we saw yesterday read, "Free Calley or Try Truman." Letters from ex-servicemen and other Calley supporters have been flowing into the offices of public officials since the verdict was announced. And a woman asked Houston's City Coun-

cil to demand the release of Lt. Calley in behalf of the people of Houston.

Some people have claimed that Calley should have been tried in a civil court rather than a military court. This is not a realistic demand. Calley violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice and was tried under that code. He committed no civil offense against the people of the United States, unless we count as treasonous his actions in direct opposition to the ideals of the United States.

He did, of course, violate the rights of the people of Vietnam. However it is unlikely that the puppet government of South Vietnam would try him, and unrealistic that the United States would surrender him to the government of North Vietnam.

Many people have said it is unfair to convict Calley of doing what he was taught by his government to do. Would those same people accept that argument if it were applied to a GI who returned from the war zone in Southeast Asia and killed American children to make sure they didn't grow up to be communists?

Even with the glaring inconsistencies of the Calley trial and in his defense, some important things have become evident. The system which the United States employs to train and psychologically equip those people, in and out of the military, who represent the country's interests abroad, is sadly lacking in something. That lack seems to be in promoting understanding of what we call the values of the American way of life, as we

Editorial: Calley -- War C

We are truly baffled at the overwhelming support Lt. Calley has received from the American public.

We can scarcely remember a cause that has provoked such a collective outcry from the people in this country — certainly not the war in Vietnam, certainly not ecological crisis, certainly not racism, poverty and other blights on this society.

To us, the trial of William L. Calley, his conviction and the subsequent reaction by American citizens constitute one of the most significant events of our lifetime. And no doubt it will be a while before any of us can begin to evaluate the consequences of the Calley affair.

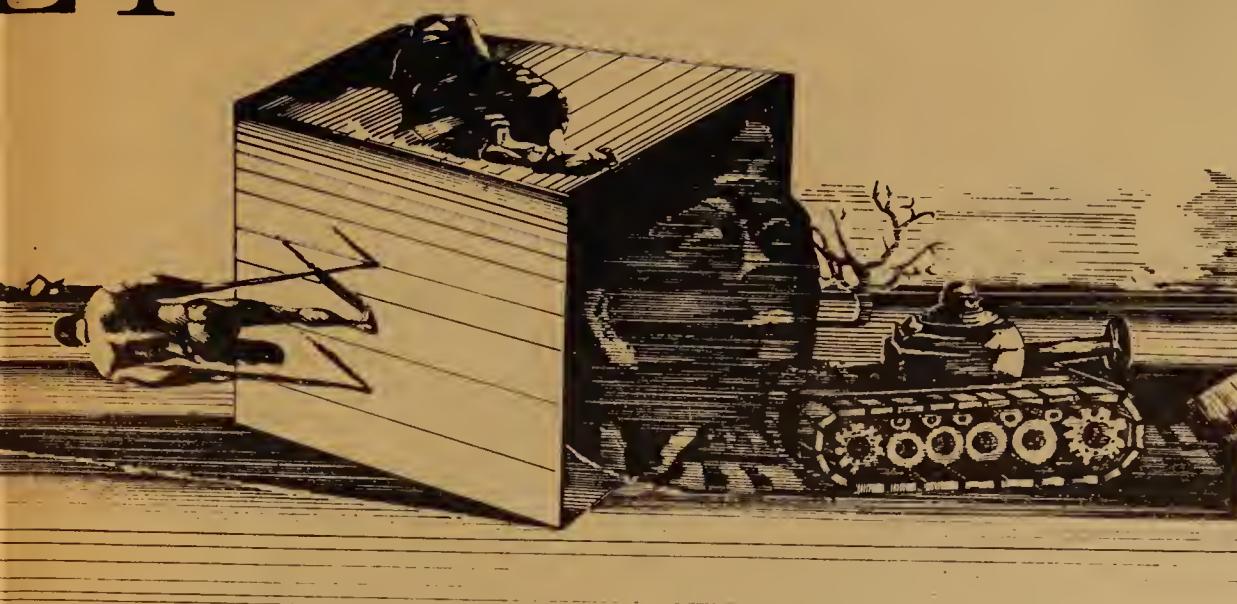
To many, Calley is a political prisoner, a prisoner of war with heroic proportions. As Walter Cronkite put it, World War I had its Sergeant York; World War II had its Audie Murphy. And the Indochina war has its Lt. William L. Calley, Jr. Every war must have its hero, and as we might expect, one of the

world's sickest, most heinous wars now claims a war criminal as its martyr.

We believe that Lt. Calley is a war criminal. Not the *only* criminal of the Indochina war, but no less guilty for all that. Many people talk about how Calley is being used as a "scapegoat" for the government and the military, how he was only following orders drilled into him from the time he first entered the Army. And we agree; this is true. But all that talk cannot erase the chilling picture from our minds of this man standing at the edge of a ditch, gunning down unarmed, living human beings, pleading for their lives.

Is a man responsible for his actions? We say, yes, he is, particularly when it comes to the decision to destroy life. The Nuremberg trials also say that a man is responsible for his actions. And that he is merely following orders when he unnecessarily takes a civilian life makes him no less a murderer.

Calley is no robot. He is a thinking, feeling human being, albeit sick, who



Paul Spina/LNS

sent it to those people we are trying to impress.

Calley was a good soldier. He followed orders. He has been condemned for murder. In testifying, he said that the word "kill" isn't used in front of the men because it violates what they were taught in this country. The word "waste" is used because it is easier to accept.

The Vietnamese are not discussed people, but as the enemy because it is easier on the men. Special emphasis is placed on the potential dangers of Vietnamese women and children, because the values most of men hold include a special respect for women and children. The war is on everyone but it will impose more hardships on the men, women and children of My Lai 4.

Many people are having trouble deciding where they stand on the Calley conviction. He killed people justice requires that he be punished.

Maybe by punishing him the American people hope to absolve themselves of any responsibility for My Lai and the countless other such atrocities the war has spawned. Maybe the Calley trial will awaken at least some of the American people to their involvement in such acts. Maybe the whole thing will simply be forgotten.



comments

While the commercial media is attempting to gauge the effect of the Calley verdict on what is largely a sampling of middle America, we talked to several young people about their reactions.

Some of their comments follow:

Gary Cohen, 23, law student, University of Texas: I thought the verdict was justified. I definitely feel the man is morally responsible for what he did. But I guess I feel that it is a scapegoat type of action in one way. It's just indicative of a lot of things in the military and foreign policy that I feel have to be revamped. It's kind of a small situation that's been magnified and it's somewhat exemplary of a lot of things on the national scene that are going on.

Now, the public sentiment that's been publicized didn't surprise me. I'm kind of disappointed that people are praising this man. It seems just a rather archaic notion, you know, of the honor and pride of the military that's been instilled in this country. And I have trouble reconciling the belief that there are evidently a majority of people in this country who still take the notion of America — not even looking to see right or wrong — but America, right, period.

Pete Roland, 25, UH student: Well,

I felt sure that they would convict him, because if they didn't convict Calley they would have either had to convict someone above him, or admit that the whole Vietnam war was wrong. Calley was the logical scapegoat because he was in a command-decision position at that time. And even though I feel sure that he was really following orders that had been handed down to him, he was the lowest echelon where they could stop the buck and place the blame, so he didn't have a chance from the beginning.

Walt Hobbs, 18, unemployed: I share everybody else's opinion that I've talked to, that he was trained to kill and that's what he was doing. I don't think they should have tried him at all; that's his job. I don't think they should have tried anybody. In war you kill people. That's what war is. And that's what he was trained to do and he was killing people. And I don't think there's anyone they should try, unless they could try someone for having a war to begin with. I think Calley was kind of a scapegoat. People wanted to see somebody made responsible for it.

Gerald Hollis, 25, student: As far as I'm concerned the whole trial shouldn't even be. Calley should be given some kind of treatment but not in any way punished.

Chris Debremacher, 16, Lamar high school student: I think all war criminals should be hung, or shot or something. But they shouldn't pin it on one guy. And if Calley gets hung, Nixon should get hung and Johnson and everybody else. They're just trying to cover up their own guilt.

Kim Shinkowsky, 23, poverty health worker: I think it's too bad that the whole military superstructure wasn't tried. I kind of take the position of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, that officers are being ordered to commit war crimes and then they're punished for them afterwards, and that the responsibility for the war crimes lies with the Pentagon officials who never see the battlefield. I just think it's unfortunate that we couldn't have given a guilty verdict to the responsible persons.

Carol Howard, 19, student: He was just a victim of the whole system. I don't agree with the verdict at all. I guess his mind was just warped like a lot of other people's. And he couldn't have done anything else under the circumstances, probably. Like it said in the newspaper, they trained him to kill, gave him the machine to kill, the orders to kill, then they turn around and say, you killed, that's wrong, you're going to die.

Dorinda Robinson, 17, student, University of Southwestern Louisiana: I feel it was unfair because they put the blame on just one person, like he did the whole thing himself. He was just following orders . . . Maybe they ought to sentence the whole government to 99 years of non-activity in the war.

Dave Wald, 25, student, UH: It's a shame to convict one man for what thousands are doing already. And it's kind of hard in a wartime situation to eliminate the kind of things he has done and yet, it's a moral question, what we do. So there's no easy answer.

Unidentified female student: I was thinking of it in relation to Melville's Billy Budd and with the action of Capt. Vere in convicting Billy and I think this draws a good analogy as morality for morality's sake, and will that set a substantial example in future actions? Will it make other soldiers think before they do something, in spite of the psychological pressures? I do think it's bad for one man to be convicted when thousands are doing it. Is it individual morality per se or is it a social morality?

Criminal or Martyr?

had a decision to make and, according to a highly convincing testimony, he chose to commit a vicious mass murder.

And we think that Calley should be punished.

But we hasten to add that we don't think the trial should stop with Calley, or even with Capt. Ernest Medina, soon to be tried on charges of murder. It should just begin there. The trial should be taken straight to the White House, to the Pentagon, where Great White Men sit at desks and daily make the same decision Calley had to make. Only these men don't have to fire the gun.

It is unfortunate — no, it is an outrage — that these high-ranking war criminals may well be cleansed and exonerated by the Calley verdict. This is one point that is clearly troubling many Americans, whether they support or condemn the decision. The frustrating thing is that we all know that Nixon, Agnew, Westmoreland, Abrams, Lyndon Johnson, and the rest will not be brought to trial. And none are guiltier than they.

And let's not forget about the countless My Lai's that have occurred, and will continue to occur, in Indochina. Remember that hundreds of Lt. Calley's stand behind M-16 rifles, heavily fortified with racism and paranoia, and fire, often indiscriminately, often for reasons that make many of us shudder in horror and disbelief.

We who consider ourselves radical leftists have generally developed, over the years, a certain hardness, a certain pessimistic expectation of the worst in America. But there are times when we feel, with an overwhelming wave of helpless naivete, that it's all crazy, just crazy. Now, with the Calley trial, the horrendous testimony, the verdict, the reaction of the American people, this is one of those times.

And, of course, the war goes on.

Space City Collective

Black Sabbath



Felix Pappalardi



Leslie West



Kim Simmonds

Photos by Dennis Hunt



Rod Stewart

APRIL 6, 1971 PAGE 14



Need we say more?

During the past six months we have traveled to many cities throughout the world, and in every city we visited, there is trouble ecologically. Smog, waste, and a disregard for the environment seem to be an accepted standard for our country, and seemingly our world. In the past we have felt pretty helpless, knowing that one individual, even five together can't really affect the situation noticeably. However, when we returned home to Denver this month and experienced smog as bad or worse than any city in the world, we got scared—really scared. We also became motivated to try and channel the creative energy of the rock culture toward a positive goal.

Our planet, this "Spaceship Earth," is a closed system. That is, there is a fixed quantity of resources and available space. We, Sugarloaf, will try to make everyone we contact aware of this fact. That is why we devoted our new album to this ideology. We also feel we can use the power of our position to focus attention on the fact that individuals taking individual steps on a personal level can make a difference in changing the environment. At the site of each and every one of our concerts, so far in 1971, we have and will continue to plant a tree. We started this campaign in Denver, January 15th. We hope you will help us when we arrive in your city.

Sugarloaf "Spaceship Earth"
on Liberty Records & Tapes
Contains their New Single
"Tongue In Cheek"





photo by Bill Mazzler

reviews



We are starting this column (or these columns) in order to give coverage to cultural events in a free and creative manner, which we see as part of our role as an alternative newspaper.

You won't always see the same types of reviews every week, because we don't plan to always review one movie, one record, one book, etc. We might do two or three different reviews on the same thing, from different viewpoints.

Nothing's final yet, and anything can happen, but for now it breaks down like this:

Music The things we will try to cover here will be the things that are important (Dylan, local musicians, new records) and things you might not hear or read about otherwise (local musicians, new records). Not just rock either.

Films We will delve into that mysterious question, 'What are people seeing, and why, and what aren't they seeing that they should be perhaps,' and so on and so forth.

Books Who reads anyway? Hopefully you will, after being filled up with suggestions and analysis found in this column.

Etc Plays of merit and/or interest (The recent Earl of Ruston was both), interesting art exhibits, exceptional radio and tv programs (exceptionally good or bad), and anything that can be defined as culture in any degree.

In short (not Herman), expect anything.

MUSIC

Z.Z. Top First Album (London PS 584)

This state has produced some fine musicians, most of whom have taken off for other parts to find acceptance.

PAGE 16/SPACE CITY!

Janis Joplin, Steve Miller, and Johnny Winter all have their roots in Texas blues. Billy Gibbons has the same roots, and I'm glad he's still around.

Gibbons is the driving lead guitarist/vocalist, who together with bassist/vocalist Dusty Hill and drummer Rube Beard, has put together one of the most exciting new releases of the year. Z.Z. Top's first album is simple, hard, and real. In the field of blues-rock, where so many people do the same things in almost the same way, Z.Z. Top has something unique to offer. The hard-charging sound remains untouched by extensive overdubbing.

The material is all original, with half of the cuts co-authored by Bill Ham, who also produced the album, which was recorded in Tyler, Texas. *Certified Blues* is my favorite cut, but *Brown Sugar* is more in a straight blues vein. *Bedroom Thang* has some guitar work on it that makes you wonder what kind of riffs Gibbons would get into in a jam. Two cuts previously released as singles, *Shakin' Your Tree* and *Neighbor Neighbor*, are also included; both are fast-moving cuts you might not have picked up on if you're not into 45's.

This is far and above the best album ever released by a local group. The music of Z.Z. Top defies classification as local. It should be heard everywhere. With this album, I think that it will.

Reviewing this album brings to mind the time I was sitting on the hill at Herman Park (very stoned) and I looked down and saw two freaks in mice costumes (leotards and whiskers and big ears) and I couldn't understand it at all until one of them stepped up to me and said, "Does anybody here know Mr. Z.Z. Top?" *Woodstock* Two Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Joan Baez, Jimi Hendrix, Melanie, Canned Heat, Jefferson Airplane, Mountain. (Cotillion SD2-400) Two record set.

It will probably be a long time before people quit trying to cash in on the Woodstock phenomena, but if future rip-off attempts have this much to offer, I really won't mind too much.

Live recordings of all these groups, excellent quality, and the fine music not available elsewhere make the fact that it was at Woodstock of very little consequence.

"I see that we meet again" says Jimi Hendrix. All of side one is taken up with a glorious jam, Hendrix & skychurch, just for this, the album is worth getting. And there's lots more. Jefferson Airplane does Saturday Afternoon/Won't you Try and Eskimo Blue Day from the volunteers album, live recordings make the music more real, the reality of the surreal, so to speak.

Crosby's Guinnevere, Nash's Marrakesh Express, and Still's 4&20 gives us a smooth preview of their soon-to-be-released live album.

The well-worn Canned Heat Boogie (here titled the Woodstock Boogie) is present in the form of a twelve minute cut. When you're livin' the blues, you gotta boogie . . .

Some people will refuse to look at this album because they are so fed up with all this Woodstock bullshit (almost as many as will run right out and buy it for the same reason). For hardcore Hendrix freaks, it is a necessity. I don't know how much they are going to sell this thing for, but at any rate, you should try and get your hands on it somehow. — Jim Shannon

FILMS

Sympathy for the Devil

"Please allow me to introduce myself . . ."

The Screening Room theater is on Main, between Sears and downtown. It's close to a cafe that's a favorite of the local police. Right next door is a gay theater, owned by the same people. The place is small, old and you can sit on the floor.

"I'm a man of wealth and taste . . ." April 5-12 Jean-Luc Godard's *Sympathy for the Devil* will play there. And it is a film well worth seeing. The

film carries three narrative threads, and presents them in what is close to a visual villanelle. The first theme is the revolution. In sequences shot with Black Panthers (not actors) Godard attempts to depict the necessity of a revolution. The difficulty here is that he's toying with the idea, almost trying to make it entertaining. (Although it may be argued that it's aimed at those with their heads in a particular place.)

"I've been around for a long long time . . ." The second theme centers on Godard himself, who is trying to find where the artist fits into the scheme of things. Should he remain detached and observing, or should he try and help shape the future? I heard Godard in Austin after this film was shown. He could have cared less about it; he had already gone on to other things. He had made the decision and was well into revolutionary work — not only actively supporting the struggle, but also trying for a new, revolutionary film technique. He has now abandoned the narrative technique completely — I believe this film was his last attempt at formal structure. (Even so it follows his other works in pushing the concept of structure to the limit.) It's not an easy film, but rates equal standing with *John Wesley Harding* in that it was made by a man in the middle of a decision. It's a turning point, a corner. As such it allows us a glimpse inside this man's head.

" . . . pleased to meet you, hope you guess my name." Then there's the Rolling Stones. The Stones are shown in the recording studio meticulously putting together the album's title song "Sympathy for the Devil." We see them as master artists of the studio, we hear them relentlessly. (There was some trouble in the actual filming — the studio caught fire.) There's even a chance to see Jock the night watchman (tea and sympathy). All together, a fine film for the head.

— Gene Cuny

Trash

Trash begins with a shot of a woman's hands caressing a man's pimpled ass. The man is a junkie and can't get a hard on. The woman tries

GRAND FUNK RIDES AGAIN

Once again Dallas promoters Concerts West have swept into town and taken Houston's concert audience for a ride. The psychology they are using is nothing new, but this is the first time I can recall Concerts West using it in Houston.

The plot goes something like this: GRAND FUNK IS COMING! OK, now that the attention of the average rock fan is aroused, the plan is put into action. The first announcements concerning ticket sales stated that tickets would only be on sale for four hours and at just one location — in front of the Houston Coliseum, where the concert is to take place. The results: the show was sold out.

End of story? Not quite. Be prepared for an announcement to this effect: GEE KIDS, WE KNOW THAT THERE'S A LOT OF YOU OUT THERE WHO COULD NOT GET TICKETS TO THE SHOW, SO TELL YOU WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO. WE'RE GONNA HAVE TWO CONCERTS JUST SO YOU CAN GET TO SEE GRAND FUNK AND BLOODROCK.

Now, what they're not going to tell you is that this had been set up all along. The main purpose? An old American tradition: eliminate the competition. If you rush down and spend all of your money thinking that it's your only chance to get tickets, then there's a good enough chance that you're not going to have enough bread left to see the Rod Stewart concert or the Mountain concert or the Sweetwater concert at Of Our Own April 9 and 10.

High ticket prices are also an issue. Concerts West does more concerts in more cities than anybody else in the country. By having these huge tours, they pick up groups cheaper than other promoters. Therefore, Concerts West could afford to charge less than anyone else in the business. It kinda tells you where they're at when you compare them with other promoters and realize that they have the *highest* prices in town.

So what can you do? Well, don't riot. Even though that might shut down the Civic Center Buildings to Concerts West, it would also shut 'em down to everybody else. And some promoters aren't trying to fuck you around.

In fact, the riots last year had a number of effects that *helped* Concerts West. The results were that to have a show in a Civic Center Building a promoter has to hire close to a hundred cops at \$5 an hour and put up a big insurance deposit. Putting up this kind of money doesn't hassle a company as big as Concerts West. But it makes it almost impossible for a local promoter to get started. So by rioting against high ticket prices, the people of Houston cleared the path for the biggest rip-off of all.

Check out the different promoters. Have you ever wondered how Sonic Productions can bring you four big groups at a cheaper ticket price than Concerts West can with only two and sometimes just one group? People all over the country are snapping to the answer to the problem. They're hurting promoters where it really hurts — in the pocketbook.

Get it together, people. Boycott Concerts West until the prices come down. As long as Concerts West thinks it can get away with ripping you off, it will. Tell 'em to get fucked. It's the only way to get those prices down. And it can be done.

BOYCOTT CONCERTS WEST!

—Allen Box

KAUM DOCUMENTARY WINS AWARD

A locally-produced documentary radio program was the best in the state this year, according to the United Press International. "Livingston Parish, Louisiana," produced last year by KAUM-FM, has been awarded the Texas UPI Best Documentary Award for cities of more than 250,000.

"Livingston Parish" told the story of the Baton Rouge pop festival held last Memorial Day weekend. (The festival was a disaster, featuring brutal police raids and other niceties.)

The documentary was an excellently put together piece of radio. Chilling stories of Louisiana piggery were interspersed with the oinking of Livingston Parish officials, and the whole thing was laced with appropriate music.

The program was produced by Randy Covington and was narrated by Dan Earhart and Ed Beauchamp (who did much of the reporting). Space City's Brian Grant helped gather information and round up eye witnesses/victims for the show.

PREVIEW

What can you say about an 82-year old lady who cried?

That she was old. And cranky. That she loved the limepits and Texas. And Ken Maynard. And me.

"I'll give you a bloodrock," she proposed a few years before, and when I said no she showed me one for the first time.

"I'm sorry," I whispered.

She understood. "Bloodrock means not ever having to say you're sorry."

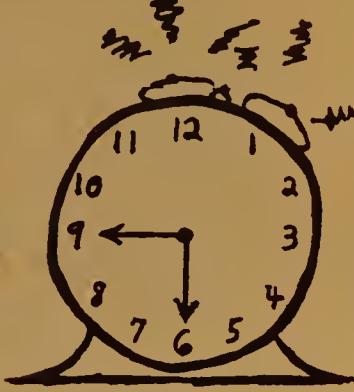
She cried.

I cried.

Somewhere, Billy Jason Locksterdei was straining lime.

(Note: Bloodrock will appear in concert with Grand Funk April 8 and 10 in the Coliseum)

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Goose Creek Symphony: "How do you do, come on and over . . . you know you're welcome anytime." So begins Welcome to Goose Creek, the second rollicking, friendly album by today's best-loved underdiscovered group. Dig it. Be happy.

Leo Kottke: He describes his voice: "like geese farts on a muggy day." Here you discover how well "GFOAMD" sound when coupled with Leo Kottke's legendary and delicious guitar. Both fine. Both believable.

Gene MacLellan: Canada's award-winning songwriter (Snowbird, Put Your Hand In The Hand) debuts as performer, singing ten of his own. Giving truth to the rumor that true validity comes when the singer and the song are one.



Fifth in a series of drawings
commissioned by Capitol from John Van Hamersveld

PAGE 18/SPACE CITY!

SCREECHING ROOM THEATRE

GODARD
The Rolling Stones
 "Sympathy for the Devil (1+1)"

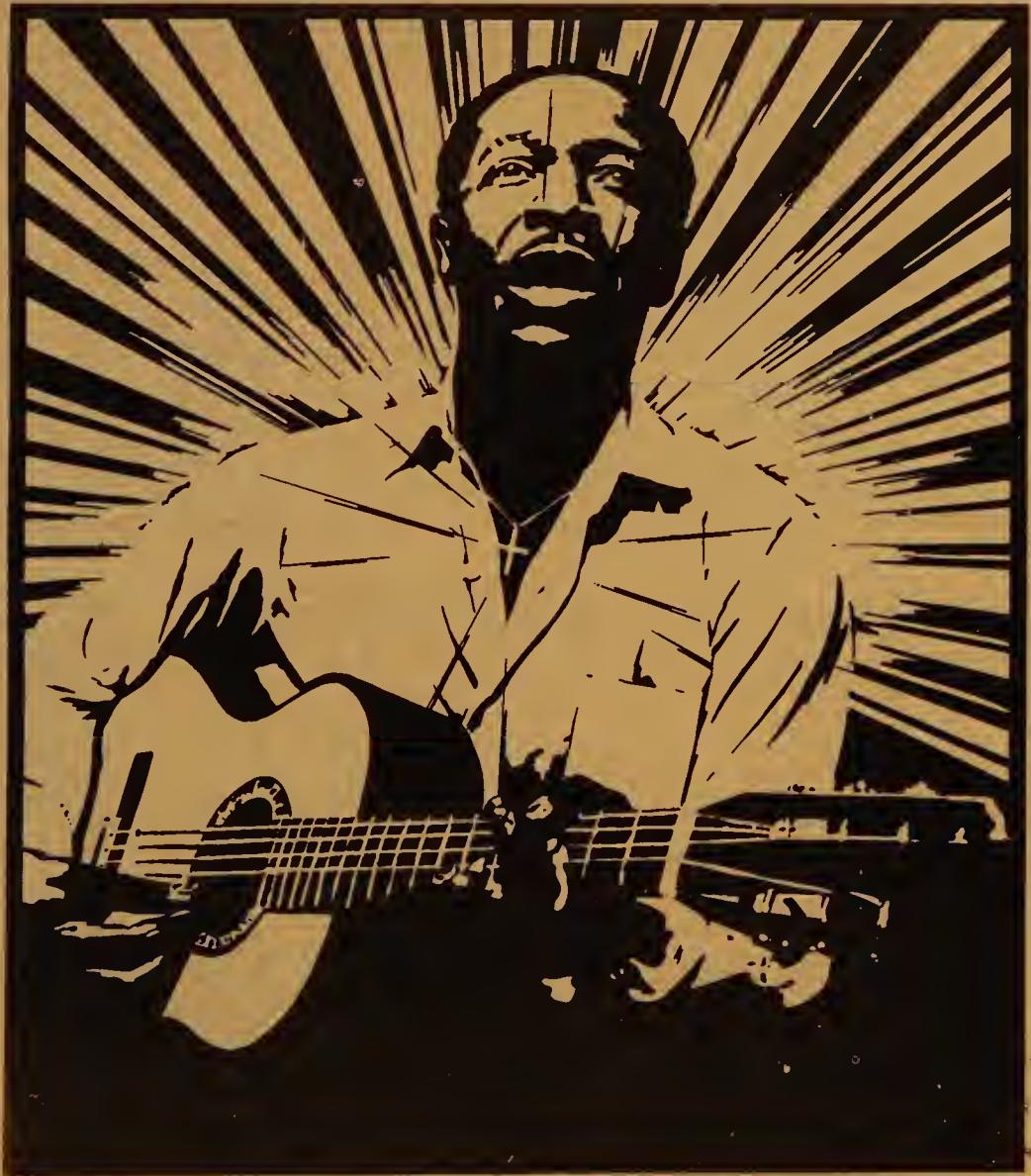
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—Morgenstern, NEWSWEEK

"A movie experience
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—Canby, N.Y. TIMES

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So, these people came to us and said,
"Do us a favor and
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
OR SPACE CITY NEWS!!"
DAMN," we thought. Then
DAM FREEKS ARE SOME KINDA
HARD TO PLEASE - AND BY NOW THEY
ARE TIRED OF ALL THOSE STARS AND
SMOKY PEOPLE EMERGING FROM
JARS AND ALL THAT OTHER PSYCHEDELIC
BULL SHIT (ESPECIALLY WHEN IT SAYS
"SUITABLE FOR FRAMING" at the bottom).

So, we decided to run this
ad (ON ITS SIDE), so it would
CATCH YOUR ATTENTION AND MAYBE
YOU WOULD TURN THE PAPER SIDE-
WAYS TO READ IT, AND MAYBE YOU
WOULDN'T. WE DECIDED TO DO IT ALL
IN WORDS BECAUSE WE DID PICTURES
LAST TIME. PLUS, ALL OF US WERE
TOO LOADED TO DRAW.

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

Any way, all foolin' around aside, the Peoples name is NORMAN JOILY'S VOLKSWAGEN SERVICE 5431 W. OREM A33-O511. They have 3 Freak Mechanics (NOT COUNTING NORMAN). They all have knowledge about Volkswagens. NONE OF THEM have knowledge of THIS AD!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

milby...

Cont. from 3

Thereafter, everyone breathed a little sigh of accomodation, picked the blood from under their fingernails and the mayor announced that since the only complaint received on the incident had been cleared, the case was closed.

Interestingly, there was at least one more complaint that was never made public. David Duncan, 23, of 306 Bremmond, said that he wrote a letter to Chief Short and attempted to deliver it Sunday night. There was no one in the administration office, he said, so he delivered it to an officer in homicide, who assured him that it would be forwarded to Short.

In his letter Duncan described an incident in which a patrol car, driving across the park grounds, purposely swerved towards and struck a boy about 14 or 15. The boy stumbled and fell forward, but did not appear to be seriously injured. The car stopped; the cop got out and walked towards the action, ignoring the boy who had been hit. Duncan said he has received no acknowledgement of his complaint.

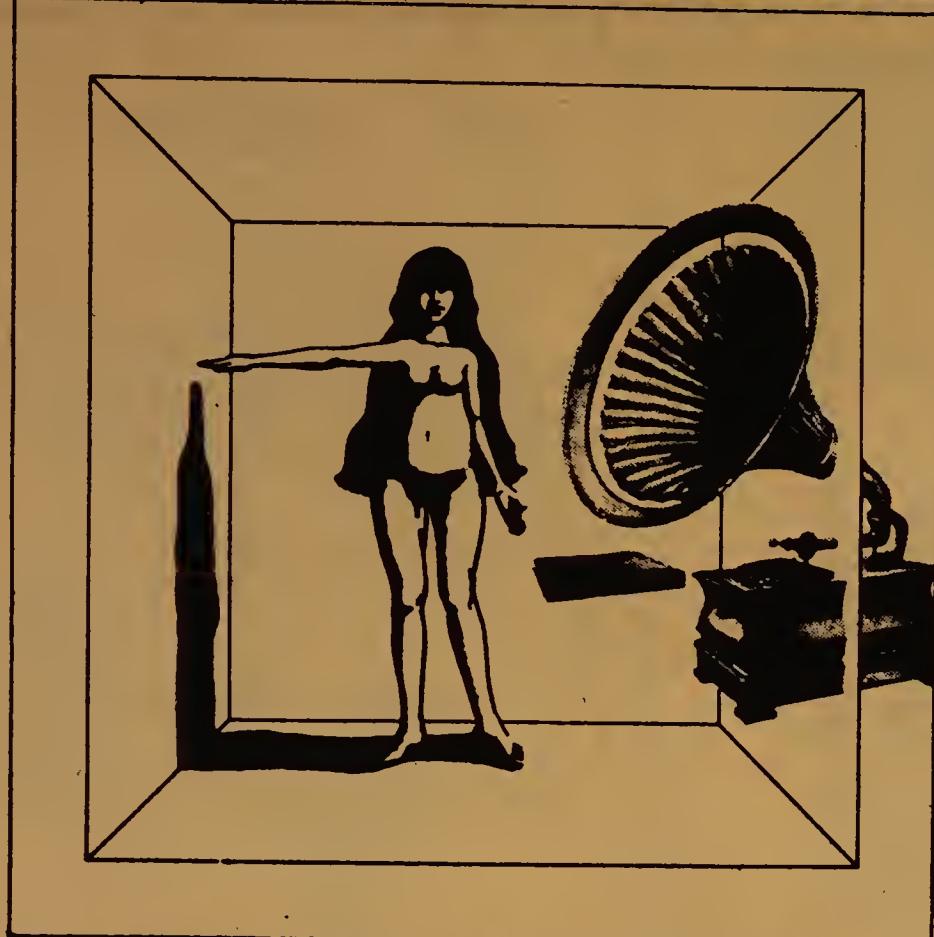
Some people interviewed at the scene divided their indignation equally against the police and some of the other people in the park. Almost immediately following the incident, the music was started again, and people were pulled back into a passive appreciation in front of the stage.

"It's really fucked," said one boy. "People just get busted and beat up all around them, and they just sit there smiling and saying how we've got to keep cool like it was all our fault and blow it off now, let's boogie. It's just totally fucked."

"What's going to happen on future weekends?" we asked him.

"I don't know. Nobody's bringing any dope, but we're coming back, and we're going to be more together next time."

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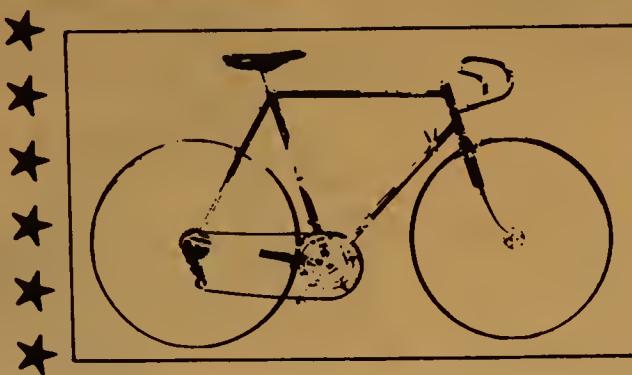
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films

of H
 April 6; *Moby Dick*, Arnold Hall Auditorium, 8 pm \$5.00.
 April 7, 8, 9, 10; *Space Oddyssey*, Oberholzer Ballroom, 7 & 10 pm, \$7.50.
 April 8, 9, 10; *Dynamite Chicken*, Liberal Arts Aud., 8 pm, \$1.50.
 April 12; *Bonnie and Clyde*, Houston Room, 7:30 pm, \$1.
 April 13; *The Come Inn*, Arnold Hall Aud., 8 pm, \$5.00.
 April 14, 15; *Ummi Girl*, Oberholzer Ballroom, 7 & 10 pm, \$7.50.
 April 15, 16; *Itineri*, Library Aud.
 April 15, 16; *Sympathy for the Devil*, Houston Room, 2, 4, 7 & 9 pm, \$2.00 for students, \$2.50 for public. (see review)

creening Room, 2905 South Main
 April 5-11; *Sympathy for the Devil*, 8, 10:15 & 12, \$2.00. (see review)
 April 12-18; *American Revolution*, 11, 8, 10:15 & 12, \$2.00.

ice
 April 16; *Children Who Draw* by Susumu Hani, Media Center, free.
Intent Folio by Frederick Wiseman, Media Center, free.
 University of St. Thomas
 April 6; *Sympathy for the Devil*, Anderson Hall, 8 pm. (see review)
 other
 April 6-8, *Trash* by Andy Warhol, Loew's State Theatre 1022 Main, 12, 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10. (see review)

plays

Alley Theatre
 April 8 - May 9, *Prune of Miss Jean Brodie*, \$3.90, \$3.30, \$3.00
 \$2.00 for groups of students in 10 or more,
 for times call 522-1045.

Studio 7
 Every Saturday in April; *Rolfin Hood*, 2 pm, \$1 & \$2.

Jones Hall
 April 11; *The Voice From the Wilderness*, 4:30, A three act religious play.
 April 9-10; *Crime On Goat Island*, a play by Ugo Betti, The Autry House, 6252 Main, 8 pm, more info call 524-3168.

art

April 6-24; Museum of Fine Arts, *Peter Max Exhibition* and concert by *The Mystic Image*.

April 10 & 11; *sidewalk Art Fair*, 100 - 400 blks of Westheimer, Sponsored by Houston Peace Action Coalition.

African Arts Festival
 April 5-23; *West African Sculpture Exhibition*, U of H, University Center, during regular building hours.
 April 6; "The African Image in the New World", Wa Thiong'o Ngugi lecture, Rice, Fondren Lecture Lounge, 8 pm.
 "Portuguese African Literature: The Making of a Revolution"
 April 14; TSU, Newman Hall, 7:30 pm
 April 15; U of H, Sonora Room, 12 pm
 April 15; Rice, Fondren Lecture Lounge, 8 pm.



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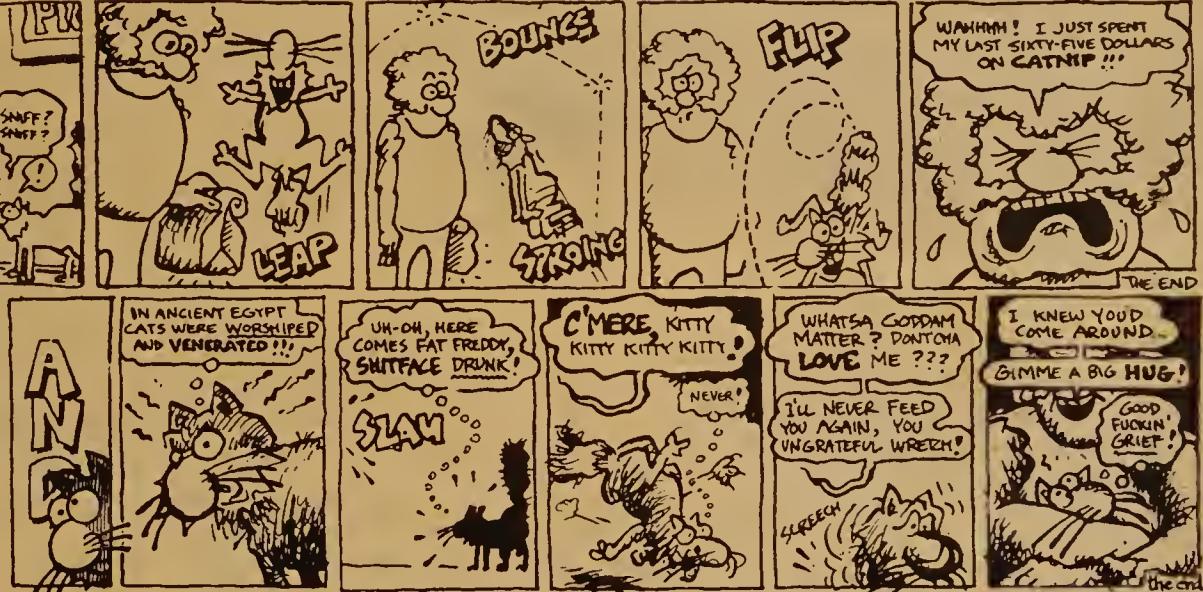
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music

April 6, *Bach Ensemble*, West Germany's Stuttgart Bach orchestra, chorus and soloists perform. Jones Hall, 8:30, for more info call 227-1111.

April 8 & 9; *Of Our Own*, Sweetwater and Ginger Lally 8 pm, \$2.50.

April 8 & 10; *Colliseum*, Grand Funk and Bloodrock. 8 pm, \$4, \$5 & \$6.



SPACE CITY

Collective: Judy Fitzgerald, Gavan Duffy, Jim Shannon, Victoria Smith, Thorne Dreyer, Dennis Fitzgerald, Bill Casper.

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Advertising: Gavan Duffy, Mike Zee, Randy Chapman

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Space City! is published weekly on Tuesday by the Lyman Padde Educational Project, Inc., a non-profit corporation (you better believe it). Member LNS, UPS. Advertising rates upon request. 1217 Wichita, Houston, Texas 77004. (713) 526-6257. Tell 'em Lyman sent ya!

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GLF; Meetings every Tuesday at the University Center at U of H, 8 pm.

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Space City! needs people to help with distribution, mailing papers and taking papers to different points. If you are interested in helping in any way please call Bobby or Bill at 526-6257. Also call this number if you want to know the closest pick up point in your area.

Space In listings are free: If you have information you'd like to include, contact Michele Toth or Suzi LeBlanc before 6 pm. Thursday for publication the following Tuesday. 526-6257, 1217 Wichita, Houston 77004

this is an ad. Need person with car to share house with 1 male & 2 females. We have the house, do you have the car? Rent - \$10 month. Come by, 1209 O'Neil.

Space City! normally runs a regular, free Unclassifieds feature. We omitted this issue because of the long time-lapse since the last issue - we didn't know which ads were still good. Write out your ad (try to be brief), and send it to Unclassifieds, 1217 Wichita, Houston 77004 by Friday for Tuesday publication.

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April 15; The Toy that Grew Up, a group of films by Mack Sennett in

including "Versatile Villain", "Danger Girl", and "Run, Girl, Run.", 10 pm.

the end (115)





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